

## Abstract

To protect vehicle occupants in dangerous situations, the distance ( $a$ ) of the vehicle (1) to a roadside object, such as a guardrail (2), etc., is determined and compared to a critical distance ( $a_{crit}$ ). If the actual distance is less than the critical distance, alarm  
5 devices (16) are triggered and/or reversible restraining means are deployed. The critical distance ( $a_{crit}$ ) may be determined as a function of the host vehicle velocity ( $V_{host}$ ).

(Figure 1)